

Jupiter's moon: Europa



- Radius = 1565 km (about the size of Earth's Moon)
- Density ~3 grams/cc
- Surface primarily water ice (H₂O) (from earth-based and spacecraft measurements)
- lo (Europa's neighbor) is volcanically active from tidal heating
- Could Europa have also experienced tidal heating and have a subsurface ocean?



Galileo Mission and Galileo Europa Mission



Does Europa's icy surface have evidence that a subsurface ocean is or was present?

- Ice volcanism?
- Melting?
- Other surface features (e.g. cracks)?



What did Galileo find?



- G1 (the first orbit) -- ice "plates" that could have moved on a liquid or plastic sublayer. Few impact craters.
- G2 -- Dark (mottled) terrain. Few impact craters.
- C3 -- Dark wedges....plastic or liquid.
- E4 -- Callenish (a large impact); Smooth plains (the "puddle"); Ridges
- 5th orbit -- solar conjunction (no data)



What did Galileo find?



- **○** E6 -- Icebergs!!...and more ridges
- E11 -- Disruption in other regions
- E12 -- Pwyll (an impact crater), high resolution of disruption and ridges
- E14 -- more wedges and disruption
- E15 -- near terminator mapping, stereo
- E16 -- spacecraft safing (no data)



What is Galileo finding?



- E17 -- current playback -- comparison w/ earlier orbits; candidate tectonic and volcanic features; south pole.
- E18 -- begins November 22
- E19 -- plume search
- E25 -- poorly seen hemisphere



An ocean on Europa?



- In the past....yes
- In the present....maybe
- **⋄** In the future...Europa Orbiter Mission....



What about oceans on Jupiter's other moons?



- o lo -- a rocky planet ... no.
- Callisto -- recent findings suggest "yes".
- Ganymede -- we're looking....